

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub 1.* A method for providing a virtual telephony intermediary between telephony devices, comprising:

5 receiving telecommunication data in a payload section of a packet sent from a first telephony device at a virtual telephony intermediary;

manipulating the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device; and

10 communicating the manipulated data to the second telephony device.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

associating a first logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary with the first telephony device; and

15 associating a second logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary with the second telephony device.

*Sub 2.* 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

20 modifying source address information associated with telecommunication data received at the second logical port from the first telephony device to specify the first logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary; and

25 communicating the telecommunication data with the modified source address information to the second telephony device.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein modifying source address information in the telecommunication data comprises modifying a source IP address and port information in a header of an Internet Protocol (IP) packet.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein associating the first and second logical ports of the virtual telephony intermediary with the first and second telephony devices comprises associating a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) <sup>TS</sup> logical port with each telephony device to enable the streaming of IP packets to each telephony device.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device comprises duplicating the telecommunication data.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device comprises converting the telecommunication data from a first data format compatible with the first telephony device to a second data format compatible with the second telephony device.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the first and second data formats are audio encoding formats.

25 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device comprises replacing the telecommunication data with substitute telecommunication data.

10. A virtual telephony intermediary, comprising:  
a first logical port associated with a first telephony  
device;

5 a second logical port associated with a second  
telephony device;

10 a data manipulation module operable to manipulate  
telecommunication data in a payload section of a packet  
received from the first telephony device at the second  
logical port; and

15 a transmission module operable to communicate the  
manipulated telecommunication data to the second telephony  
device.

10. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 10,  
15 wherein the first and second logical ports are User  
Datagram Protocol (UDP) logical ports.

10. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 10,  
20 further comprising an address translation module operable  
to modify source address information associated with the  
telecommunication data received from the first telephony  
device to specify the first logical port of the virtual  
telephony intermediary.

25. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 12,  
wherein the address translation module is further operable  
to modify a source IP address and port information in a  
header of an IP packet.

14. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 10, wherein the data manipulation module is operable to duplicate the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device.

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15. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 10, wherein the data manipulation module is operable to convert the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device from a first data format compatible with the first telephony device to a second data format compatible with the second telephony device.

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16. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 15, wherein the first and second data formats are audio encoding formats.

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17. The virtual telephony intermediary of Claim 10, wherein the data manipulation module is operable to replace the telecommunication data with substitute telecommunication data.

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18. A communication network, comprising:  
a first telephony device;  
a second telephony device; and  
a virtual telephony intermediary logically inserted  
5 between the first and second telephony devices, the virtual  
telephony intermediary including:

a first logical port associated with the first  
telephony device;

a second logical port associated with the second  
telephony device;

a data manipulation module operable to manipulate  
telecommunication data in a payload section of a packet  
received from the first telephony device at the second  
logical port; and

15 a transmission module operable to communicate the  
manipulated telecommunication data to the second telephony  
device.

19. The communication network of Claim 18, wherein  
20 the virtual telephony intermediary further comprises an  
address modification module operable to modify source  
address information in the telecommunication data received  
from the first telephony device to specify the first  
logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary.

25 20. The communication network of Claim 18, further  
comprising a call manager operable to:  
generate the virtual telephony intermediary; and  
establish a communication link between the first  
30 telephony device and the second telephony device using the  
virtual telephony intermediary.

21. Virtual telephony intermediary software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to perform the following steps:

receiving telecommunication data in a payload section of a packet sent from a first telephony device at a virtual telephony intermediary;

manipulating the telecommunication data received from the first telephony device; and

communicating the manipulated data to the second telephony device.

22. The virtual telephony intermediary software of Claim 21, further operable to:

associate a first logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary with the first telephony device; and

associate a second logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary with the second telephony device.

23. The virtual telephony intermediary software of Claim 22, further operable to:

modify source address information associated with telecommunication data received at the second logical port from the first telephony device to specify the first logical port of the virtual telephony intermediary; and

communicate the telecommunication data with the modified source address information to the second telephony device.

24. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 23, wherein modifying source address information in  
the telecommunication data comprises modifying a source IP  
address and port information in a header of an Internet  
Protocol (IP) packet.

25. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 22, wherein associating the first and second logical  
ports of the virtual telephony intermediary with the first  
and second telephony devices comprises associating a User  
Datagram Protocol (UDP) logical port with each telephony  
device to enable the streaming of IP packets to each  
telephony device.

26. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 21, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data  
received from the first telephony device comprises  
duplicating the telecommunication data.

27. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 21, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data  
received from the first telephony device comprises  
converting the telecommunication data from a first data  
format compatible with the first telephony device to a  
second data format compatible with the second telephony  
device.

28. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 27, wherein the first and second data formats are  
audio encoding formats.

*B' Cont.*

29. The virtual telephony intermediary software of  
Claim 21, wherein manipulating the telecommunication data  
received from the first telephony device comprises  
replacing the telecommunication data with substitute  
telecommunication data.

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